Dan Kimball to Louis Johnson, May 23, 1949. Armed Services, Record Group 220: Records of the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

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THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Washington

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE: 23 May 1949

Subject: Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Forces.

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 11 May 1949 on the subject of equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Forces. The Navy Department has re- examined the current situation and proposes to take the following specific additional action:

(a) Promulgate a statement of the Navy Department's policy regarding minority races. Copy of proposed directive attached.

(b) Augment efforts to obtain Negroes to enlist in the Navy by (1) the assignment of Negro petty officers to duty in the Navy Recruiting Service, (2) ordering to active duty volunteer qualified Negro Reserve officers to assist in the recruitment of Negroes, and (3) slant recruiting advertisements, posters, films, and pamphlets to attract Negroes to the Navy by use of photographs showing whites and Negroes working together in the Naval Service.

(c) Exert greater effort to attract qualified Negro students to participate in the NROTC program. Special efforts were made last fall to attract Negro high school students to participate in the program. The results will not be known until after the beginning of the academic year in 1949. It is believed they were not as good as expected. More vigorous efforts will be made this next year.

(d) Promulgate a directive to insure that all members of the steward branch who are in all respects qualified are given an opportunity to change their rate to another rating branch.

(e) Change the status of chief stewards to that of chief petty officers.

(f) The Marine Corps will disestablish the present separate Negro recruit training facility and integrate the training of Negro recruits with that of whites.

2. The Navy Department proposes to undertake immediately a study to determine in what categories personnel with an applicant qualification test score of less than 45 can be employed without detriment to the Service.

/s/ Dan A. Kimball

Dan A. KIMBALL

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Acting Secretary of the Navy

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